

FISCAL NOTE

SB 159 - HB 599

February 12, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL: Provides procedures for a parent to voluntarily leave an infant age 72 hours or less at a hospital. The bill also provides that a parent who complies with the provisions of the bill would not be subject to prosecution for contributing to the dependency of a minor (Class A misdemeanor) or criminal child abuse and neglect (Class D felony). The bill further amends the definition of abandonment as used in termination of parental rights cases to incorporate a newborn infant under the criteria of this bill.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease State Expenditures - \$9,300/Incarceration*
Decrease Local Govt. Expenditures – Not Significant

Assumes:

- one case per year will avoid prosecution for a Class D felony.
- the Department of Children's Services would take custody and provide foster care for the infant no matter what the circumstances of the abandonment.
- local government impact depends upon the number of persons that will no longer be convicted of the Class A misdemeanor that would have been in the absence of this bill.

**Section 9-4-210, TCA, requires that: For any law enacted after July 1, 1986, which results in a net increase in periods of imprisonment in state facilities, there shall be appropriated from recurring revenues the estimated operating cost of such law. The amount appropriated for operating cost, in current dollars, shall be based upon the highest cost of the next 10 years, beginning with the year the additional sentence to be served impacts the correctional facilities population.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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